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By CHARLES PATTON

Pasco Times Staff Writer

**PORT RICHEY** — By a series of 3-2 and 4-1 votes, the Pasco County Commission Tuesday hammered out the language of a non-binding straw vote on county governmental facilities to appear on the Nov. 5 general election ballot.

Efforts to delay any straw vote until after more engineering studies are made and a new County Commission is seated (at least two of the current members will be replaced) failed on a 3-2 vote when only Commissioner Louie E. Holt supported Commissioner William Hamilton's motion.

Among those voting not to delay action were Commission Chairman Walter Voorhees, made a lame duck by last week's primary election voting, and Commissioner Dan Chambers, who did not seek reelection. Chambers was appointed to the board last year to fill a vacancy created by the death of Commissioner Henry Strauber.

Holt faces opposition in the November election.

A NUMBER of words in the proposed question as drafted by County Atty. Peter Dunbar were changed by 4-1 votes, with Hamilton opposed and Holt remaining silent (thus registering an affirmative vote). Then the final motion approving the resolution calling for the matter to be placed on the ballot again squeaked by 3-2.

"Well, we won't have to put up with this but another six weeks," Hamilton said, referring to the after-election changes.

The questions to appear on the ballot include:

- ✓ Do you favor improving the Pasco County governmental facilities?
- ✓ If there are improvements made to governmental facilities, select the alternative preferred — improvements in the vicinity of existing county facilities or centralization of improvements and county functions with local service facilities.

**BOTH HOLT** and Hamilton objected to holding the straw vote in November because of the lack of information.

"For the public to make an intelligent decision, it needs to know something about costs, at least a ballpark figure," Holt said.

"I don't see how we can do that," Voorhees said. "As we grow our needs will increase."



**WILLIAM HAMILTON**  
... delay motion failed.



Pasco Times Staff Photos by Charles Patton

Mathew Prahasky Jr. (left) and Newton during straw vote debate

"Basically this is asking the public to provide a blank check because no one knows whether this is going to cost \$1-million or \$15-million," Holt said.

He pointed out that two years ago the voters turned down a specific proposal for a \$2-million judicial complex.

"I damn sure don't think they are going to vote for this," he stormed.

"When the time comes to spend money, the people will have to vote again," Chambers said.

CIRCUIT Clerk **Miller Newton** said there is a possibility that the project could be financed without a millage levy or bond issue.

He noted that federal buildings such as post offices now are

being constructed and leased by the government until the construction costs are met, with the title to the property then changing hands for a nominal consideration.

Holt also suggested putting wording on the ballot letting people know that if they approve facility improvements a millage increase is likely.

"I think it's an insult to the voters' intelligence," Voorhees said, pointing out that anyone knows if additional facilities are improved it will mean spending more money.

"I am opposed to putting anything like that (millage) on the ballot," Chambers agreed.

(See STRAW VOTE, PAGE 3)

## Straw vote (Continued from Page 1)

**DADE CITY** Manager Ben Bolan tried unsuccessfully to pin the commission down on its future actions should the majority of the voters indicate support for additional governmental facilities, whether centralized or expansions of existing facilities.

"Will you move the county seat on the basis of the November balloting?" he asked.

"That's a moot question," Voorhees told Bolan, pointing out that the board membership would be changed after the voting.

But he predicted that the new board would do as the old board has done and "make decisions for the people."

Bolan said he was merely seeking additional information as a result on the Dade City Commission's authorization to its attorney to block any attempt to move the county seat, now in Dade City.

**AFTER** dispensing with the governmental facilities question, which was the only item on the agenda for the special meeting, Holt moved for adjournment. But he was turned back again by a 3-2 vote when Dunbar proposed that the commission also consider signing the new regional water authority agreement on an emergency basis.

Dunbar's proposal also was rejected 3-2. It would have taken a four-fifths vote to consider the matter on an emergency basis.

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